

8-6-1854

## Letter to John Butler, Eliza (Smith) Butler and Matilda Smith from Isaac Smith

Isaac Smith

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There was one of the best grist mills started in our neighborhood last week that I ever saw the report is that they are making 47 pounds of flour to the bushel I don't believe it though I suppose they can make as much as any mill in any country we have plenty saw mill hands.

Tell the children that that I would like to see the very much I could tell them a good many fittish stories, my love to you all & my respects to all of the old neighbors, no more at present write often it is dark to write any more

Your affectionate brother

Isaac Smith

May the 7 I like to have forgot to tell you a heart Bergmans misfortune about 9 weeks ago he was taken with a pain in his leg just below the knee in a few days it commenced swelling and swelled to his body it pained him a great deal he fell off till he was nothing but skin or bone I implead a doctor his medicine gave him some relief it has not pained him any of consequence for about 5 weeks there was small places raised upon it like boils I have lanced two of them & I think there is one more that will have to be opened he can walk round some

Bridgeport Ct August 6<sup>th</sup> 1854

Dear Brother & sisters

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well at this time I, those lines will find you all enjoying the same like blessing, the connexion as all well as fair as I know I saw your Father & Mother to day at meeting John E. was the Preacher they both look hearty & well, I have no news to write you at this time, we had a very cool backward spring here, there has been a good deal of complaining of bad colds & some with lung fever one of our neighbor women dyed with that disease, there has been no complaint amongst the connexion that I know of I want you to send me a receipt for making that cough syrup that Wm H. Smith got of Smith Wallace, we have had beautiful weather here for a while harvest is about done wheat generally was first rate some late wheat was injured with the freeze last winter, mine amongst the rest.

Matilda wanted to know how often I had wished my self back in answer I will say that I can't care for health & as long as we can have as good health as we have had I try to be thankful and ~~content~~ contented. This is a poor



place to raise children on the account that people take such little interest in schools if I ever wish my self back it will be on this account I like the country but the society I am not very well pleased with though I have hope that it will improve. — I set out an orchard of grafted fruit last spring it is growing as fine as any I ever saw I have hope that I will have fruit plenty in two or three years Trees here younger here than in Illinois. I was sorry to hear that fruit was killed in your neighborhood. — You misunderstood me a hint hiring some person to tend my ground what I wanted you to do was to hire some person to plow that wet land so that it would not grow up in weeds & grass again, I supposed that was the reason that it would not rent. I wrote to you not to sell that I had some notion of leasing my place for so doing was, first I do not particular need the money Secondly property is rising faster there than here in Oregon, thirdly improved places sell higher in proportion than unimproved, therefore if you can get some person that is trusty, to put some cheap building, and a small orchard on it, for what it is worth, and take the rents of the place for pay you may set him to work reserving to your self the right to pay him at any time for his labor provided I should want to sell it before the lease runs out, trust your own judgment & I will be satisfied. —

Times is hard here & money very scarce property is about one third lower than it was a year ago, Cows & calves is worth about 50 dollars each Beef 7 cts per pound, Sheep 10 dollars a head Bacon 25 cts per pound wheat 2 dollars per bushel Butter 20 cts per pound. Chickens 6 dollars per dozen, Salt is worth 3 dollars per bushel Sugar 12 cts per pound Coffee 20 cts Molasses from 60 to \$1.25, dry goods & ready made clothing are about as cheap as in New month, — I still have my fore shares yet there are in good order, I have five of my mules yet I would like to sell them, there is plenty that want them but I cannot find any person that has the money, — I saw a book advertised in the atlas called the western fruit Book I need such a book if you can get it for me with out too much trouble send it to me by mail it is at Porters Rockland, — we have a new post office in one mile of me this will be a great accommodation to me I live about a dozen miles from Independence and it is a good deal of trouble for me to get anything from there I want you to direct your letters to the said office, (Bridge Port Polk County Oregon) tell the rest that writes to me to do the same I also want you to have the atlas directed to me there, —



# Butler Family Letters

## Digital Collection

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Monmouth, OR 97361

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Title: Letter to brothers and sisters from Isaac Smith (Bridgeport Oregon Territory)

Date: August 6, 1854

Transcription:

Bridgeport OT August 6th 1854

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I saw a book advertised in the atlas called the western fruit book I need such a book if you can get it for me with out too much trouble send it to me by mail it is at Porters Rockland, we have a new post office in one mile of me this will be a great accommodation to me I live about a dozen miles from Independence and it is a good deal of trouble for me to get anything from there I want you to direct your letters to the said office, (Bridgeport Polk County Oregon) tell the rest that writes to me to do the same I also want you to have the atlas directed to me there there was one of the best grist mills started in our neighborhood last week that I ever saw the report is that they are making 47 pounds of flour to the bushel I don't believe it though I suppose they can make as much as any mill in any country we have plenty saw mill handy.

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your affectionate brother

Isaac Smith

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